

**Nebraska Health and Human Services System
Office of Protection and Safety**

**Child
Abuse or
Neglect**

**Annual
Report**

for Calendar Year 2003

NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM



DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES • DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSURE • DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT

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Information on Child Abuse or Neglect for Calendar Year 2003

This report provides information from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) about child abuse or neglect in Nebraska for calendar year 2003. It also provides statutory child protective service references; responsibilities of law enforcement, the courts, and HHS; an overview of steps followed as cases go through the HHS Protection and Safety System; information about HHS' collaborations around domestic violence; and a glossary of terms.

In calendar year 2003:

- ❖ **Investigations:** 9,296 reports of child abuse or neglect were investigated by HHS, compared to 8,405 in 1994. This represents a 10.6 percent increase in the total number of reports investigated since 1994. Compared to 7,200 in 2002, this represents a 29.1 percent increase in the total number of reports investigated.
- ❖ **Substantiated Cases:** 2,423 allegations of abuse or neglect were substantiated, compared to 2,605 in 1994. This is a 7.0 percent decline in substantiated cases since 1994. Compared to 2,316 in 2002, this is a 4.6 percent increase in substantiated cases.
- ❖ **Number of children involved:** 3,610 children were involved, compared to 4,514 in 1994. This is a 20.0 percent decline compared to 1994. Compared to 3,434 in 2002, this is a 5.1 percent increase in involved children.

Statewide Statistics, Calendar Years 1994 - 2003			
Calendar Year	Total Cases Investigated	Number of Substantiated Cases	Involved Children
1994 ¹	8,405	2,605	4,514
1995	7,858	2,072	3,510
1996	8,346	2,135	3,612
1997	8,140	2,326	4,054
1998 ²	8,272	2,482	4,219
1999 ²	6,362	2,054	3,050
2000 ²	6,686	2,191	3,147
2001 ²	7,121	2,177	3,206
2002 ²	7,200	2,316	3,434
2003	9,296	2,423	3,610

- ¹ April 1994 policy memo clarified "preponderance of evidence" and mandated use of certified notice of finding to alleged perpetrators.
- ² Data extraction formulas were improved in 2004, resulting in changes to 1998 - 2002 data.

A Typical Allegation of Child Abuse or Neglect:

- ❖ Is made through a phone call from Law Enforcement Personnel
- ❖ Alleges physical neglect
- ❖ Involves 1.5 children who are generally:
 - ◆ White
 - ◆ Female
 - ◆ Between 0 and 4 years of age
- ❖ Is determined to be unfounded



Statutory Child Protective Service References

- ❖ All citizens are required by state law to report suspected child abuse or neglect by calling 1-800-652-1999 or contacting law enforcement.
- ❖ Nebraska Revised Statutes sections 28-710 through 28-727 define the terms “abuse” and “neglect” and outline reporting responsibilities. Responsibilities for law enforcement and Health and Human Services are described.
- ❖ Nebraska Revised Statutes section 43-407 sets out the powers and duties of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the protection of children.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is the state agency responsible for child welfare and child protection. Services are provided to: children and families with issues involving abuse, neglect, and dependency; and youth who violate the law or have mental health issues. Effective May 2004, Protection and Safety workers serve families statewide in HHS’ five Service Areas, which were created in 2004. (A map of the former Service Area boundaries and a map of the current Service Area boundaries, can be found on page 4.) For purposes of evaluating and tracking data, the Office of Protection and Safety separates the Western Service Area into two sections. The Southwest Service Area includes the counties of Hooker, Thomas, McPherson, Logan, Lincoln, Dawson, Chase, Hayes, Frontier, Gosper, Dundy, Hitchcock, Red Willow and Furnas. A four-member Policy Cabinet, appointed by the Governor, oversees the entire Health and Human Services System. This Policy Cabinet is made up of the directors from the three agencies, the Policy Secretary, and the Chief Medical Officer.

Law Enforcement and the Courts’ Responsibilities in Child Abuse or Neglect Cases

Different entities become involved at various times in child abuse cases. Only law enforcement or judges have authority to remove children from their homes. County attorneys are responsible for filing charges against those who victimize children. Law enforcement may be involved in investigations in which HHS does not become involved and vice versa depending on local protocols established between HHS and law enforcement.

Health and Human Services Responsibilities in Child Abuse or Neglect Cases

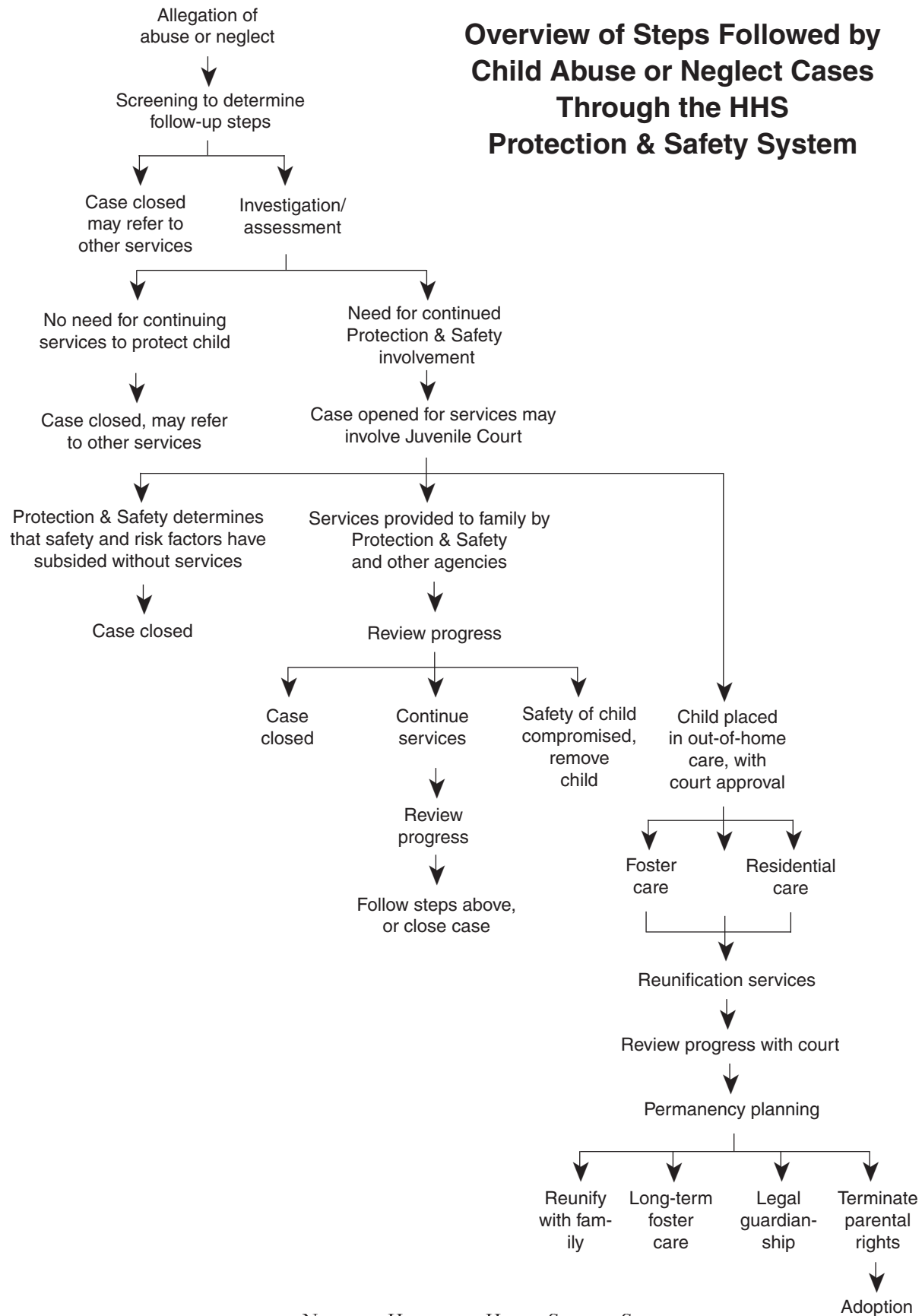
The Department of Health and Human Services develops policy and guidelines to conduct work relating to abuse or neglect. In investigations where HHS becomes involved, employees assess for child safety and risk to the child and other children in the family, provide services to the child and may provide counseling and other family support services for other members of the family. If children are removed from their homes by law enforcement or the courts, HHS is usually given custody and responds by finding an appropriate temporary placement for the children.

Context for the Data in This Report:

- ❖ *Data Source:* The data for years prior to 1998 is from the Child Welfare Legacy computer system. All information since 1998 is from N-FOCUS, HHS’ Nebraska Family On-Line Client User System, developed in part with Federal Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (SACWIS) funding. All States are required to submit data on child abuse or neglect cases, foster care and adoption. N-FOCUS provides more information than ever before, particularly for reports or referrals made regarding abuse or neglect.
- ❖ *Time period for this report:* The data relates to reports received during calendar year 2003. However, not all were completed in 2003.
- ❖ *Change in data extraction formulas:* During data extraction for the Calendar year 2003 Annual Report, a problem was identified with previously used extraction formulas which had resulted in a number of records being counted multiple times. The formulas were improved in 2004 to correct this, resulting in changes in the data previously reported for Calendar Years 1999 - 2002. This change also resulted in *actual* data being provided for CY 1999 and CY 2000, where it was previously reported that some *estimated* data was used for those Annual Reports.



Overview of Steps Followed by Child Abuse or Neglect Cases Through the HHS Protection & Safety System



NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM

Nebraska Health and Human Services System Service Areas

Western

Lonnie Starke
P.O. Box 540
1600 10th St.
Gering, NE 69341
(308) 436-6559

Northern

Joe Nanfio
P.O. Box 770
1959 East Military
Fremont, NE 68026
(402) 727-3200

Eastern

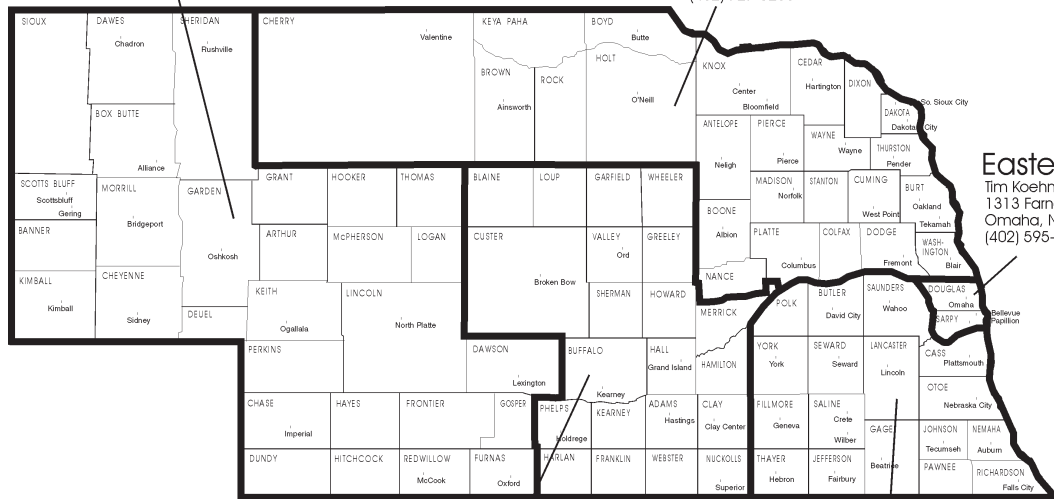
Tim Koehn
1313 Farnam
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 595-2880

Central

Yolanda Nuncio
P.O. Box 2440
208 N. Pine St.
Grand Island, NE 68802
(308) 385-6126

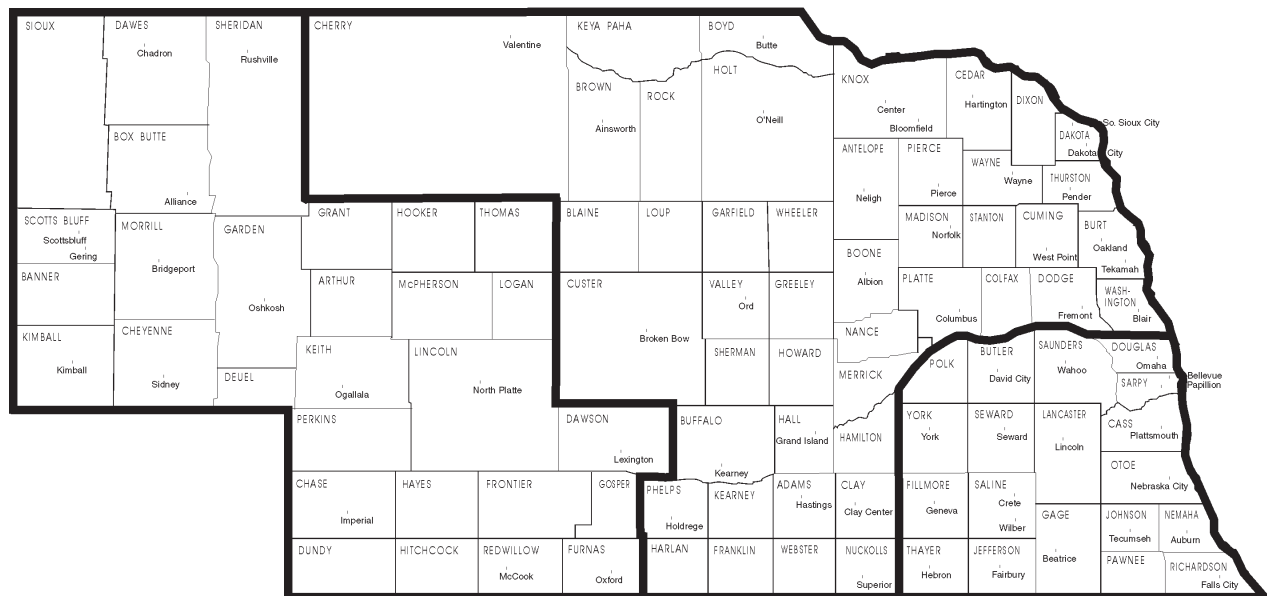
Southeast

Jeremy Hohlen
P.O. Box 98933
1050 "N" St.
Lincoln, NE 68509-8933
(402) 471-5328



Map 88 10/04

Nebraska Health and Human Services System Service Areas and Offices



Map 30 08/03



HHS/Domestic Violence Collaboration

There is a strong correlation between domestic violence and child abuse or neglect. Domestic violence and child maltreatment often occur simultaneously. Problems resulting from children who witness domestic violence have recently gained national attention, showing that the overlap of violence in families is common. The following statistics demonstrate the impact of domestic violence on children (Carter, J. 1999):

- ❖ 50% of men who frequently abused their wives also frequently abused their children.
- ❖ Domestic violence is the single major precursor to fatal cases of child abuse or neglect.
- ❖ The rate of child abuse by battered women is at least double that of mothers not being beaten by a partner.
- ❖ Men who witnessed domestic violence as a child were twice as likely to be abusive toward a partner than men whose parents were nonviolent.
- ❖ 50% of all homeless women and children in the US are fleeing domestic violence.

These facts point to the need for Child Protection and Safety workers and battered women's advocates to work together for families.

HHS partnered with the State Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalition, various domestic violence programs across the state, and Nebraska Voices for Children to produce guidebook procedures that would both protect children and serve domestic violence victims. The tangible results of these meetings have been:

- ❖ The HHS Protection and Safety Policy and Guidebook material were updated;
- ❖ A "Resource Manual" regarding Protection and Safety, Domestic Violence programs and the Employment First program was developed and distributed to all staff;
- ❖ A Protection and Safety (PS) and Domestic Violence (DV) Guide was developed and distributed to all P&S and DV Staff. This includes the latest articles regarding: domestic violence/protection and safety collaboration; recommended interviewing; evaluation and safety planning tools; and tips on working with families where domestic violence has been identified;
- ❖ Cross training was delivered jointly to all P&S and domestic violence staff across the state;
- ❖ A training video was developed;
- ❖ The Domestic Violence Coalition, Nebraska Voices for Children, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services have collaborated on a grant. This grant has helped fund many of the above projects. A pilot site in Columbus, Nebraska hired a staff person to work in both Protection and Safety and the local domestic violence program, and was assigned to assist in Protection and Safety cases where domestic violence is identified. In 2002, the collaborative programs between Domestic Violence, Child Protective Services, and Employment First was expanded and now include 9 contracts servicing 11 programs in 10 locations across the State of Nebraska.



Glossary of Terms

Central Register: The Central Register is a list of individuals identified as having been responsible for child abuse or neglect following an investigation either by law enforcement, the Department, or both.

Central Registry: Data pertaining to child abuse or neglect.

Child Maltreatment: Maltreatment occurs when a child age birth through age 17 is physically, emotionally, or sexually harmed.

Abuse:

- ❖ **Physical:** Information indicates the existence of an injury that is unexplained; not consistent with the explanation given; or is non-accidental. The information may also only indicate a substantial risk of bodily injury.
- ❖ **Emotional:** Information indicates psychopathological or disturbed behavior in a child which is documented by a psychiatrist, psychologist or licensed mental health practitioner to be the result of continual scapegoating, rejection or exposure to violence by the child's parent/caretaker.
- ❖ **Sexual:** Information indicates any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child is or has been used for the sexual stimulation of a parent, the child, or other person.

Neglect:

- ❖ **Emotional neglect:** Information which indicates that the child is suffering or has suffered severe negative effects due to a parent's failure to provide the opportunities for normal experience which produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure and worthy. Lack of such opportunities may impair the child's ability to form healthy relationships with others.
- ❖ **Physical neglect:** The failure of the parent to provide for the basic needs, or provide a safe and sanitary living environment for the child.
- ❖ **Medical Neglect of Handicapped Infant:** The withholding of medically indicated treatment (appropriate nutrition, hydration, and medication) from disabled infants with life-threatening conditions. Exceptions include those situations in which the infant is chronically and irreversibly comatose; the provision of this treatment would merely prolong dying or not be effective in ameliorating or correcting all of the infant's life-threatening conditions, and the provision of the treatment itself under these conditions would be inhumane.

Child Welfare: Provides a broad spectrum of services that starts with assessment of safety and risk to the child and provides needed intervention when indicated. It includes services that help to preserve families, enhance family strengths and functioning by actively engaging families in decision making, assessing needs, and linking with resources. It also includes services that children require when placed outside of the home in foster care and other levels of group home or therapeutic living arrangements. Finally, when children aren't able to return safely home, children are assisted to permanent living arrangements through services such as adoption, guardianship or other long-term arrangements.

Family Assessment: An in-depth assessment which assesses influences and critical issues that relate to the safety and risk of the child. This assessment lays the foundation for a family-centered, child-focused approach to case planning and service delivery.



Findings: There are five categories of findings: Court substantiated, Petition to be filed, Inconclusive, Unable to locate, and Unfounded.

- ❖ **Court Substantiated:** A District Court, County Court, or Separate Juvenile Court has entered a judgment of guilty on a criminal complaint, indictment, or information, or an adjudication of jurisdiction on a juvenile petition under Section 43-247 (3)(a), and the judgment or adjudication relates or pertains to the same matter as the report of abuse or neglect.
- ❖ **Petition to be Filed:** A criminal complaint, indictment, or information or a juvenile petition under Section 43-247(3)(a), that has been filed in District Court, County Court, or Separate Juvenile Court, and that the allegations of the complaint, indictment, information, or juvenile petition relate or pertain to the same subject matter as the report of abuse or neglect.
- ❖ **Inconclusive:** The evidence indicates it is more likely than not (preponderance of evidence standard) that the child abuse or neglect occurred, and a court adjudication did not occur.
- ❖ **Unable to Locate:** Subjects of the maltreatment report have not been located after a good-faith effort on the part of the Department.-
- ❖ **Unfounded:** All reports not classified as “court substantiated,” “petition to be filed,” “inconclusive” or “unable to locate” will be classified as “Unfounded.”

Intake: The process of documenting all reports of child abuse and neglect. Intake includes the activities associated with the receipt of a referral, the assessment of screening, the decision to accept, and the referral of individuals or families to services.

Initial Assessment: The gathering and analyzing of information in response to reports of suspected child abuse or neglect, to determine which families need further intervention. During this phase the Protection and Safety Worker is primarily concerned with child safety. The worker determines if child maltreatment did occur, determines the level of risk, and arranges services as necessary to protect the child.

Perpetrator: The person who was found to have committed an offense, as in abuse or neglect of a child.

State Ward: When a court of competent jurisdiction gives custody of a child under the age of 18 to the state, that child becomes a state ward. This is done to provide for safety and/or to facilitate the provision of services. The State acts as the child’s parent.



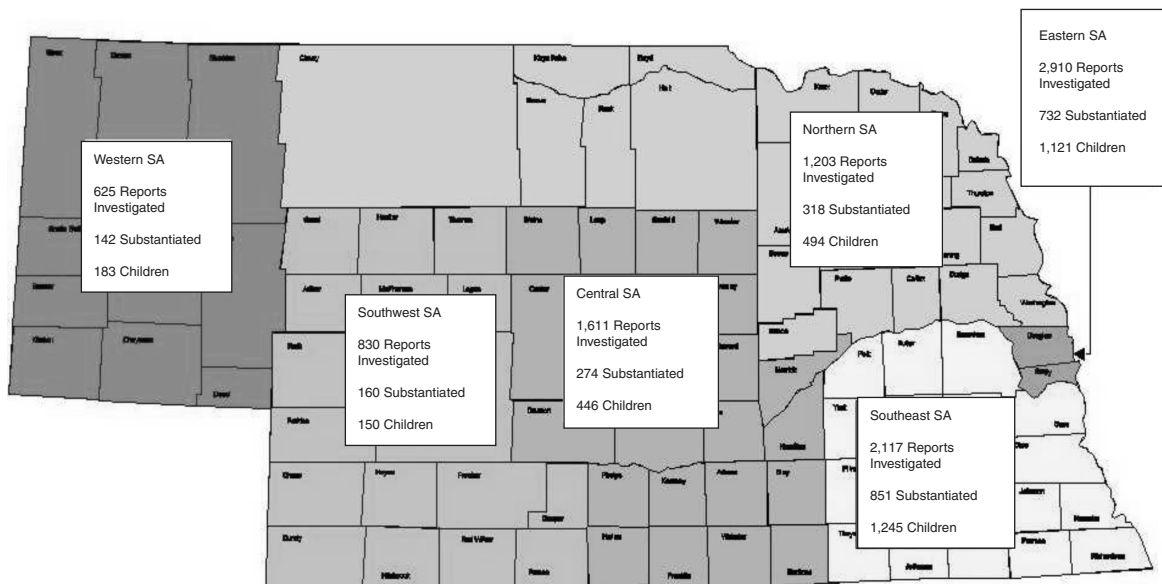
**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS
STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATED REPORTS - CY 2003**

Service Area	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Number of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect Reports	Total Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
Central	1,611	274	446
Eastern	2,910	732	1,121
Northern	1,203	318	494
Southeast	2,117	851	1,245
Southwest	830	106	150
Western	625	142	183
Total	9,296	2,423	3,610

NOTE: Children involved in more than one service area are counted for each service area, but unduplicated at the state level.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations completed by HHS in calendar year 2003 was 9,296 (a 29.1% percent increase since 2002). Above is information about the investigations by Service Area.

STATEWIDE SUMMARY



**Nebraska Health & Human Services
Child Abuse or Neglect Reports By Service Area CY - 2003**

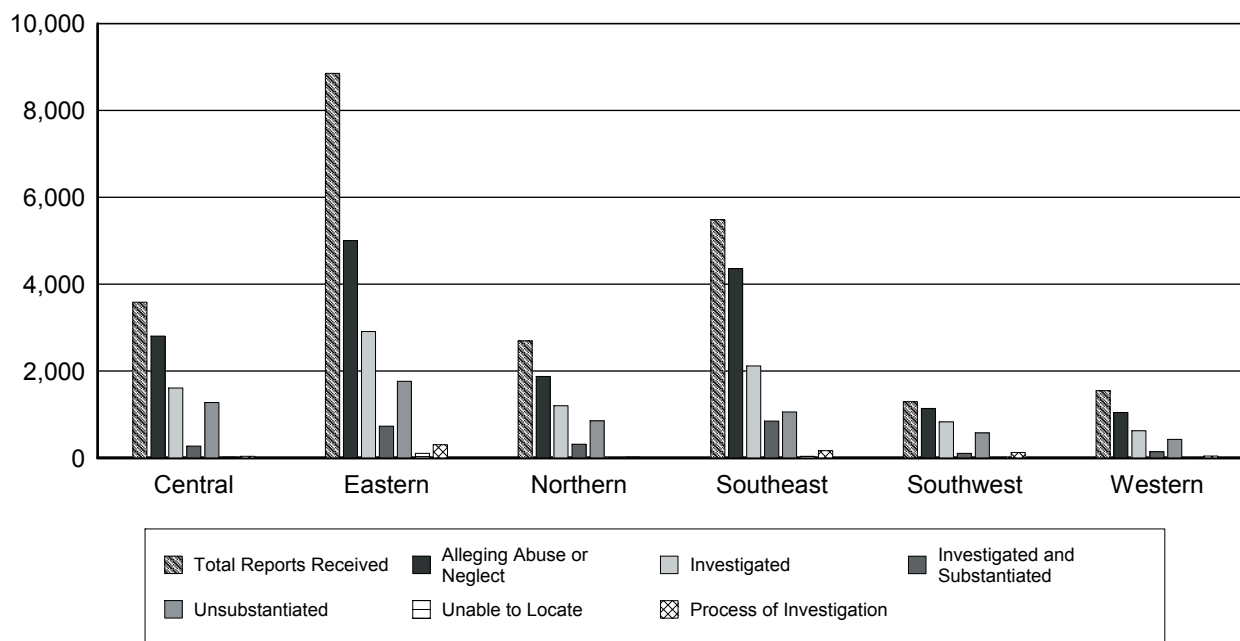
	Total Reports Received	Total Reports Alleging Abuse or Neglect 1	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated or in Process 2	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated that were Substantiated 3	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated that were Unsubstantiated 3	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated that were Unable to Locate 3	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports in Process of Investigation 3
Central	3,586	2,805 (78.2%)	1,611 (57.4%)	274 (17.0%)	1,277 (79.3%)	22 (1.4%)	38 (2.4%)
Eastern	8,855	5,007 (56.5%)	2,910 (58.1%)	732 (25.2%)	1,769 (60.8%)	106 (3.6%)	303 (10.4%)
Northern	2,697	1,880 (69.7%)	1,203 (64.0%)	318 (26.4%)	854 (71.0%)	9 (0.7%)	22 (1.8%)
Southeast	5,491	4,364 (79.5%)	2,117 (48.5%)	851 (40.2%)	1,058 (50.0%)	39 (1.8%)	169 (8.0%)
Southwest	1,298	1,139 (87.8%)	830 (72.9%)	106 (12.8%)	581 (70.0%)	16 (1.9%)	127 (15.3%)
Western	1,552	1,051 (67.7%)	625 (59.5%)	142 (22.7%)	430 (68.8%)	8 (1.3%)	45 (7.2%)
Total	23,479	16,246 (69.2%)	9,296 (57.2%)	2,423 (26.1%)	5,969 (64.2%)	200 (2.2%)	704 (7.6%)

1 Denotes % when compared to "Total Reports Received".

2 Denotes % when compared to "Total Reports Alleging Abuse or Neglect".

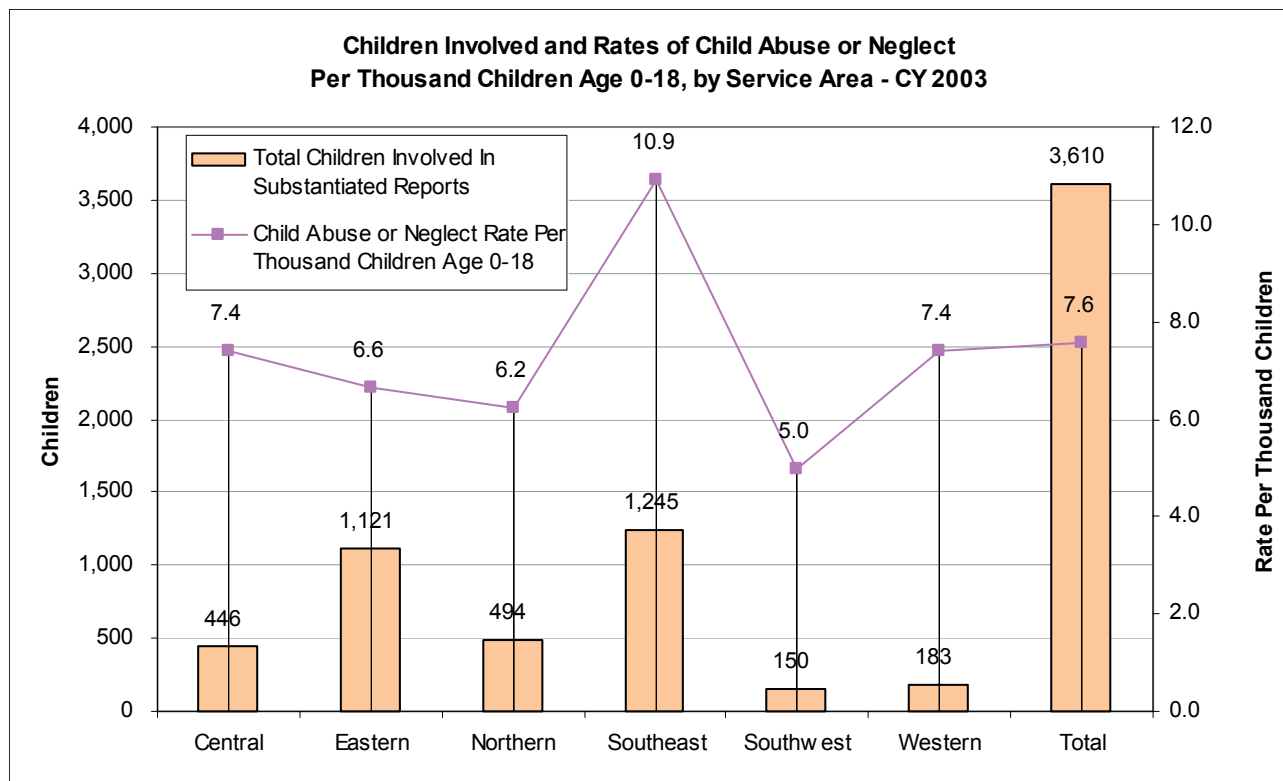
3 Denotes % when compared to "Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated or in Process".

**Child Abuse or Neglect Reports by Service Area
CY - 2003**



Service Area	Total Children Involved In Substantiated Reports	Nebraska Population Estimates, 2000 Ages 0-18	Child Abuse or Neglect Rate Per Thousand Children Age 0-18
Central	446	60,155	7.4
Eastern	1,121	168,941	6.6
Northern	494	79,076	6.2
Southeast	1,245	114,061	10.9
Southwest	150	30,068	5.0
Western	183	24,660	7.4
Total	3,610	476,961	7.6

NOTE: Children involved in more than one service area are counted for each service area, but unduplicated at the state level.



Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - Statewide

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department of Health and Human Services. The following table shows the source of referrals received by HHS and the number and percentage of these referrals that were investigated.

Source of Reports CY 2003	Total Reports Alleging Abuse or Neglect		Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated		Percentage of Reports that were Investigated
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent	
Alleged Perpetrator	13	0.1%	12	0.1%	92.3%
Alleged Victim	89	0.5%	50	0.5%	56.2%
Child Care Personnel	137	0.8%	84	0.9%	61.3%
Court/Judge	40	0.2%	35	0.4%	87.5%
Day Care Center Personnel	123	0.8%	80	0.9%	65.0%
Educational Personnel	1,720	10.6%	1,092	11.7%	63.5%
Foster Parent	69	0.4%	38	0.4%	55.1%
Friend/Neighbor	1,524	9.4%	836	9.0%	54.9%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	919	5.7%	558	6.0%	60.7%
Law Enforcement Personnel	3,465	21.3%	2,150	23.1%	62.0%
Other	525	3.2%	271	2.9%	51.6%
Parent/Legal Guardian	1,499	9.2%	661	7.1%	44.1%
Private Attorney	25	0.2%	12	0.1%	48.0%
Private Doctor/Nurse	187	1.2%	123	1.3%	65.8%
Private Mental Health Personnel	543	3.3%	295	3.2%	54.3%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	57	0.4%	34	0.4%	59.6%
Private Social Services Personnel	374	2.3%	207	2.2%	55.3%
Prosecutor	100	0.6%	85	0.9%	85.0%
Public Defender	4	0.0%	3	0.0%	75.0%
Public Mental Health Personnel	137	0.8%	66	0.7%	48.2%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	35	0.2%	17	0.2%	48.6%
Public Social Services Personnel	707	4.4%	386	4.2%	54.6%
Relative	1,505	9.3%	806	8.7%	53.6%
Unknown	568	3.5%	278	3.0%	48.9%
Anonymous	1,881	11.6%	1,117	12.0%	59.4%
Total	16,246	100.0%	9,296	100.0%	57.2%



Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - Statewide - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect Statewide - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	1,362	0	2,871	0	0	520	4,514
1995	1,228	0	2,490	0	0	406	3,510
1996	1,170	0	2,526	0	0	441	3,612
1997	1,328	0	3,023	0	0	406	4,054
1998	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	4,219
1999	822	222	2,501	392	12	383	3,050
2000	899	188	2,798	378	6	381	3,147
2001	988	285	2,857	229	6	372	3,206
2002	853	435	3,364	249	5	372	3,434
2003	829	363	3,712	221	6	363	3,610

- In the State, in 2003 there were 5,494 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 3,610 children or 1.5 substantiated allegations per child.
- Statewide, physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 3,939 (71.7%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 1,192 (21.7%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 363 (6.6%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Statewide	Sex			
Type of Allegation	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
Physical Abuse	323	328	1	652
Emotional Abuse	125	113	0	238
Sexual Abuse	238	61	0	299
Emotional Neglect	76	81	1	158
Physical Neglect	1,147	1,108	1	2,257
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	2	2	0	3
Total	1,912	1,692	6	3,610

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.

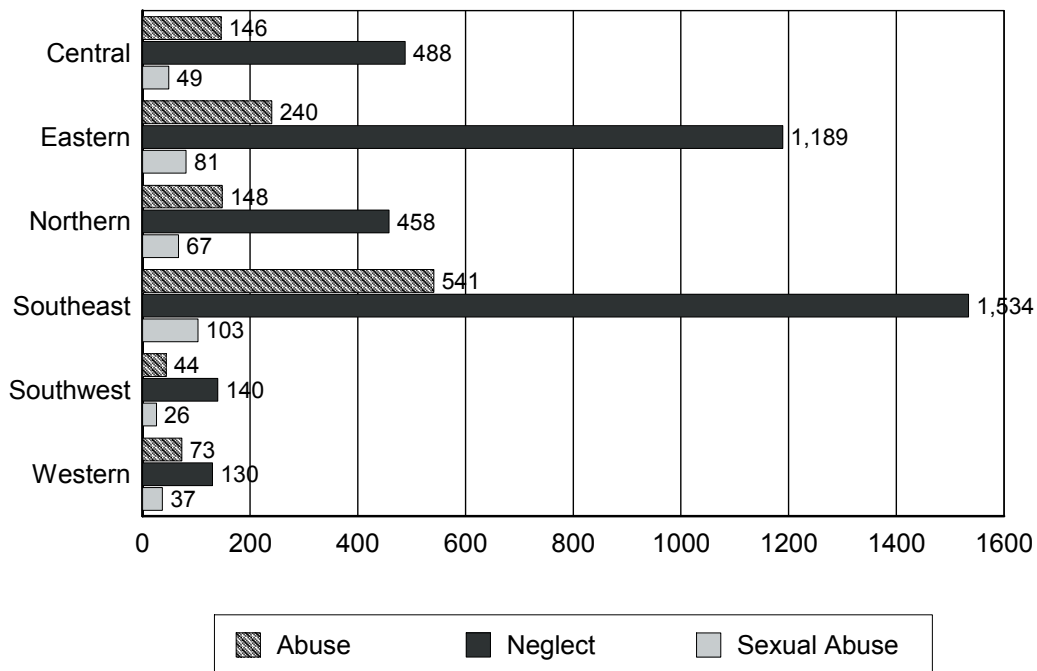


Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases By Service Area - CY 2003

Service Area	Abuse	Neglect	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect	Percentage of Children
Central	146	488	49	446	12.4%
Eastern	240	1,189	81	1,121	31.1%
Northern	148	458	67	494	13.7%
Southeast	541	1,534	103	1,245	34.5%
Southwest	44	140	26	150	4.2%
Western	73	130	37	183	5.1%
Total	1,192	3,939	363	3,610	100.0%
Percent	21.7%	71.7%	6.6%	100.0%	

NOTE: Children involved in more than one service area are counted for each service area, but unduplicated at the state level.

Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases By Service Area - CY 2003



Characteristics of Children Involved in Abuse or Neglect - Statewide Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	312	328	0	640	17.7%
02	162	160	3	325	9.0%
03	111	123	0	234	6.5%
04	136	124	1	261	7.2%
05	120	122	0	242	6.7%
06	109	109	0	218	6.0%
07	111	93	0	204	5.7%
08	99	79	0	178	4.9%
09	96	105	1	202	5.6%
10	79	94	0	173	4.8%
11	90	79	0	169	4.7%
12	92	75	0	167	4.6%
13	102	62	1	165	4.6%
14	105	54	0	159	4.4%
15	104	46	0	150	4.2%
16	63	49	0	112	3.1%
17	49	19	0	68	1.9%
Over 17	10	4	0	14	0.4%
Total	1,912	1,692	6	3,610	100.0%
Percent	53.0%	46.9%	0.2%	100.0%	

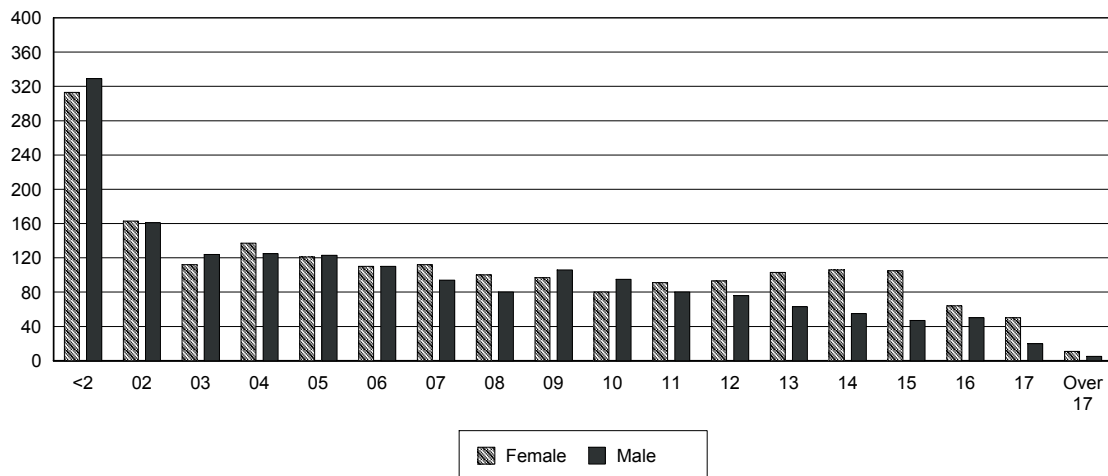
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 9,296 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the State in 2003, 2,423 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 3,610 children. Of those, 1,912 were female, 1,692 were male, and 6 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was **7.2** years.

The median age of the involved children was **6.4** years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Statewide - CY 2003



Central Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

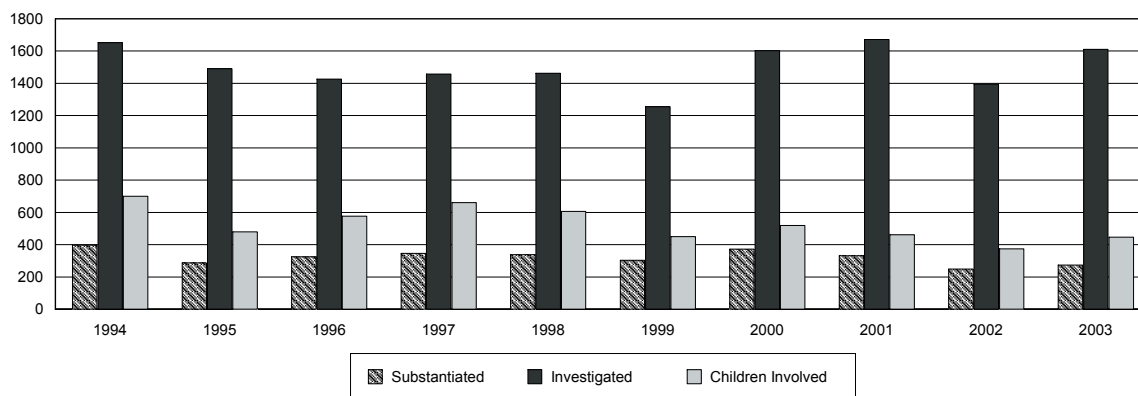
CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	1652	397	701
1995	1491	287	480
1996	1426	325	577
1997	1457	347	661
1998	1462	338	606
1999	1255	304	450
2000	1603	373	519
2001	1671	331	462
2002	1394	249	374
2003	1611	274	446

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Central Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has decrease 2.5% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 1611, a increase of 10.6% since 1997.

Child Abuse or Neglect
Central Service Area



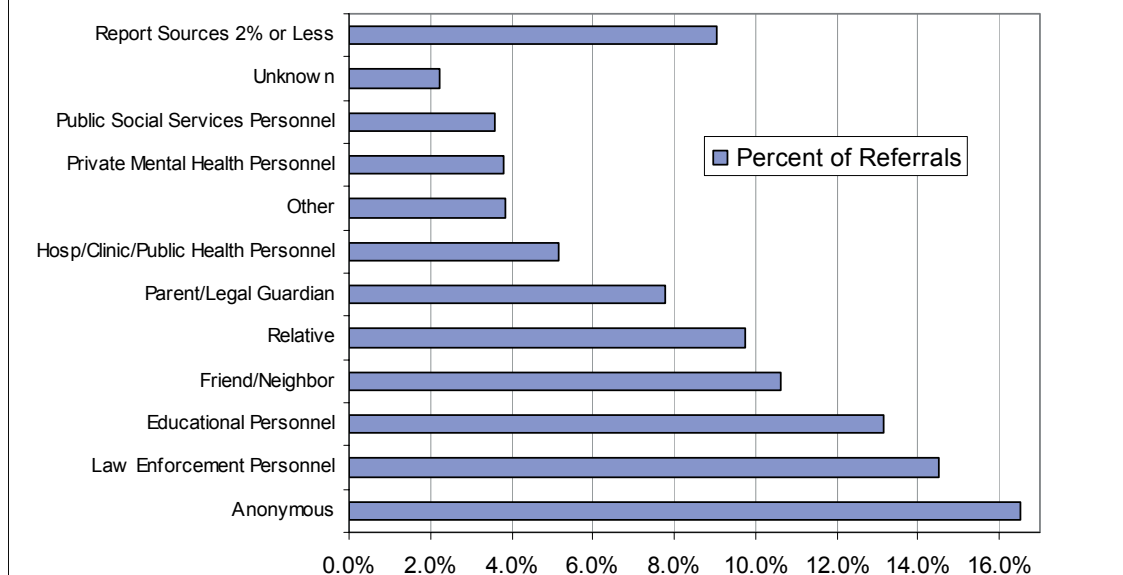
Central Service Area

Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Central Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	1	0.1%
Alleged Victim	8	0.5%
Child Care Personnel	23	1.4%
Court/Judge	4	0.2%
Day Care Center Personnel	9	0.6%
Educational Personnel	212	13.2%
Foster Parent	10	0.6%
Friend/Neighbor	171	10.6%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	83	5.2%
Law Enforcement Personnel	234	14.5%
Other	62	3.8%
Parent/Legal Guardian	125	7.8%
Private Attorney	3	0.2%
Private Doctor/Nurse	20	1.2%
Private Mental Health Personnel	61	3.8%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	7	0.4%
Private Social Services Personnel	25	1.6%
Prosecutor	10	0.6%
Public Mental Health Personnel	21	1.3%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	5	0.3%
Public Social Services Personnel	58	3.6%
Relative	157	9.7%
Unknown	36	2.2%
Anonymous	266	16.5%
Total	1,611	100.0%

Source of Referrals Central Service Area - CY2003



Central Service Area
Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect
Central Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	215	0	417	0	0	78	700
1995	149	0	298	0	0	52	480
1996	183	0	363	0	0	63	577
1997	198	0	481	0	0	47	661
1998	179	0	446	0	0	55	593
1999	160	77	411	38	0	63	525
2000	136	32	611	21	2	76	621
2001	126	9	525	13	1	62	523
2002	95	17	368	22	3	72	374
2003	127	20	469	19	0	49	446

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Central Service Area there were 684 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 446 children or 1.5 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 488 (71.3%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 147 (21.5%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 49 (7.2%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect
By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	40	55	0	94
Emotional Abuse	9	6	0	15
Sexual Abuse	32	9	0	41
Emotional Neglect	5	8	0	13
Physical Neglect	149	134	0	281
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	0	0	0	0
Total	234	212	0	446

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Central Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	43	39	0	82	18.4%
02	25	21	0	46	10.3%
03	14	21	0	35	7.8%
04	15	16	0	31	7.0%
05	18	17	0	35	7.8%
06	14	11	0	25	5.6%
07	15	17	0	32	7.2%
08	10	3	0	13	2.9%
09	8	7	0	15	3.4%
10	6	17	0	23	5.2%
11	14	6	0	20	4.5%
12	9	6	0	15	3.4%
13	14	5	0	19	4.3%
14	13	11	0	24	5.4%
15	11	9	0	20	4.5%
16	6	8	0	14	3.1%
17	4	1	0	5	1.1%
Total	234	212	0	446	100.0%
Percent	52.5%	47.5%	0.0%	100.0%	

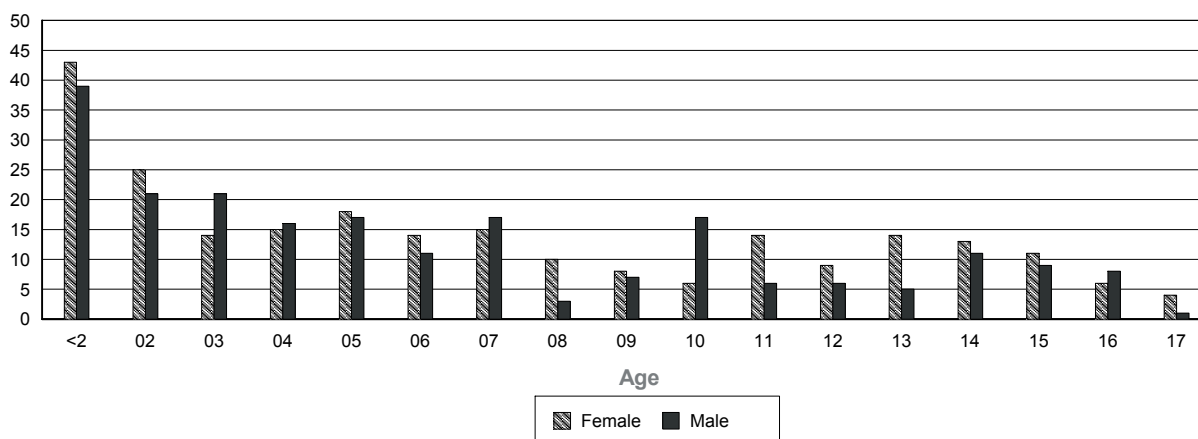
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 1,611 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Central Service Area in 2003, 274 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 446 children. Of those, 234 were female, 212 were male, and 0 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was **6.6** years.

The median age of the involved children was **5.4** years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Central Service Area - CY 2003



Eastern Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

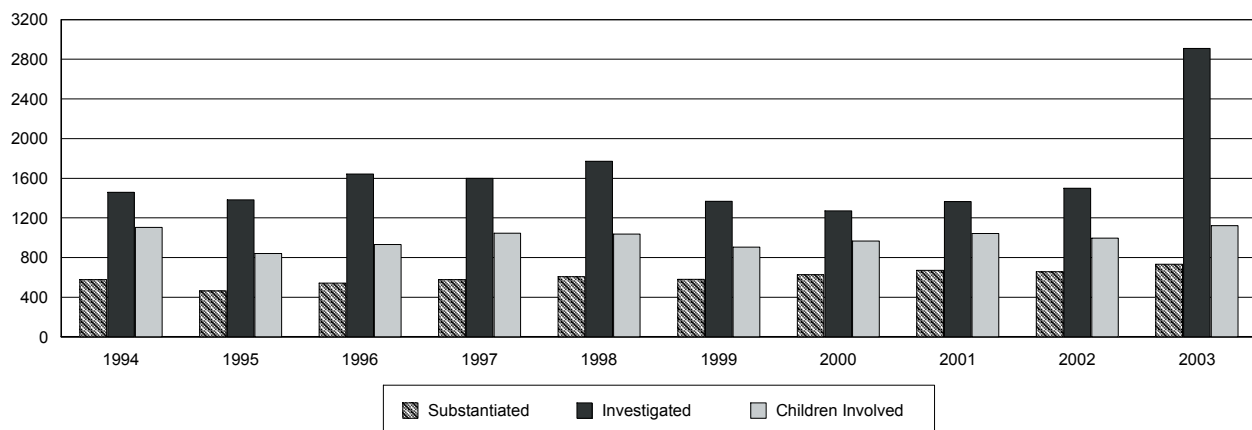
CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	1459	577	1105
1995	1381	465	840
1996	1642	544	933
1997	1598	578	1045
1998	1773	606	1037
1999	1369	581	906
2000	1271	628	967
2001	1366	671	1043
2002	1500	658	995
2003	2910	732	1121

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Eastern Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has increase 99.5% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 2910, a increase of 82.1% since 1997.

Child Abuse or Neglect
Eastern Service Area



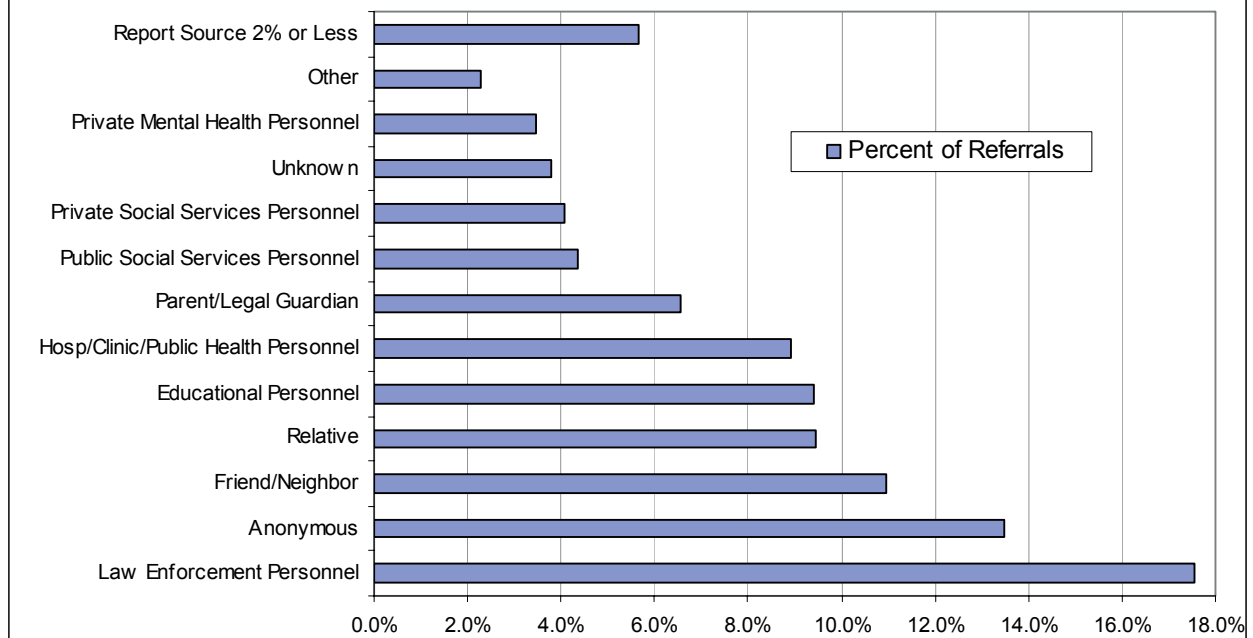
Eastern Service Area

Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Eastern Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	5	0.2%
Alleged Victim	12	0.4%
Child Care Personnel	14	0.5%
Court/Judge	22	0.8%
Day Care Center Personnel	26	0.9%
Educational Personnel	274	9.4%
Foster Parent	10	0.3%
Friend/Neighbor	319	11.0%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	260	8.9%
Law Enforcement Personnel	511	17.6%
Other	66	2.3%
Parent/Legal Guardian	191	6.6%
Private Attorney	5	0.2%
Private Doctor/Nurse	39	1.3%
Private Mental Health Personnel	101	3.5%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	7	0.2%
Private Social Services Personnel	119	4.1%
Prosecutor	11	0.4%
Public Defender	1	0.0%
Public Mental Health Personnel	11	0.4%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	2	0.1%
Public Social Services Personnel	127	4.4%
Relative	275	9.5%
Unknown	110	3.8%
Anonymous	392	13.5%
Total	2,910	100.0%

Source of Referrals Eastern Service Area - CY 2003



Eastern Service Area

Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect Eastern Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	360	0	755	0	0	93	1,105
1995	338	0	692	0	0	65	840
1996	340	0	739	0	0	99	933
1997	468	0	877	0	0	82	1,045
1998	374	0	859	0	0	90	1,036
1999	280	51	841	39	0	99	1,027
2000	269	46	715	56	0	58	846
2001	305	58	905	79	0	83	1,054
2002	228	23	947	10	0	80	995
2003	224	16	1,142	38	0	81	1,116

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Eastern Service Area there were 1,501 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 1,116 children or 1.3 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 1,180 (78.6%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 240 (16.0%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 81 (5.4%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	99	93	0	192
Emotional Abuse	6	8	0	14
Sexual Abuse	56	16	0	72
Emotional Neglect	17	11	0	29
Physical Neglect	393	414	0	804
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	0	0	0	0
Total	572	542	2	1,116

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Eastern Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	96	114	0	210	18.7%
02	38	52	1	91	8.1%
03	31	37	0	68	6.1%
04	31	33	1	65	5.8%
05	31	31	0	62	5.5%
06	33	30	0	63	5.6%
07	26	30	0	56	5.0%
08	39	33	0	72	6.4%
09	32	40	0	72	6.4%
10	25	33	0	58	5.2%
11	23	28	0	51	4.5%
12	29	21	0	50	4.5%
13	40	18	0	58	5.2%
14	32	17	0	49	4.4%
15	30	14	0	44	3.9%
16	20	15	0	35	3.1%
17	19	6	0	25	2.2%
Over 17	4	1	0	5	0.4%
Total	574	545	2	1,121	100.0%
Percent	51.2%	48.6%	0.2%	100.0%	

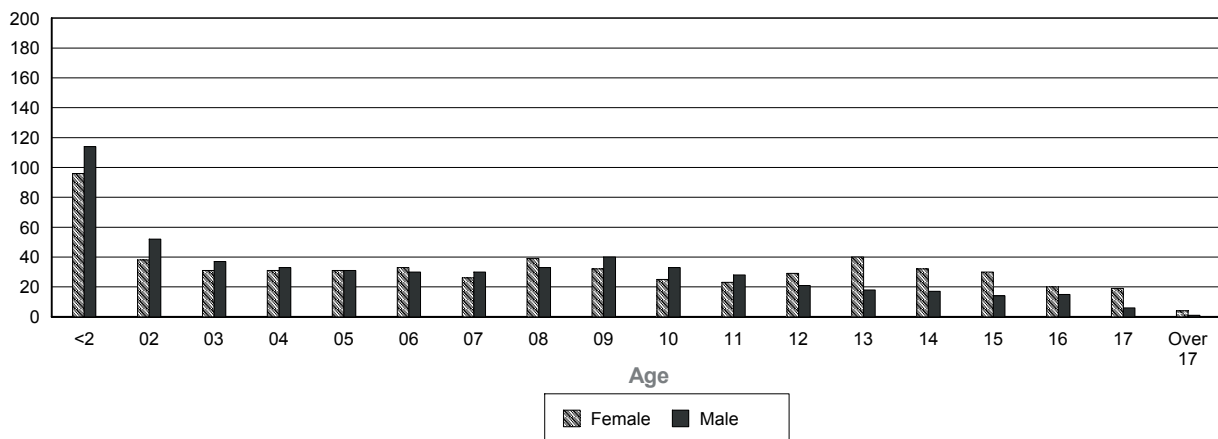
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 2,910 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Eastern Service Area in 2003, 732 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 1,121 children. Of those, 574 were female, 545 were male, and 2 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was 7.4 years.

The median age of the involved children was 7.1 years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Eastern Service Area - CY 2003



Northern Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

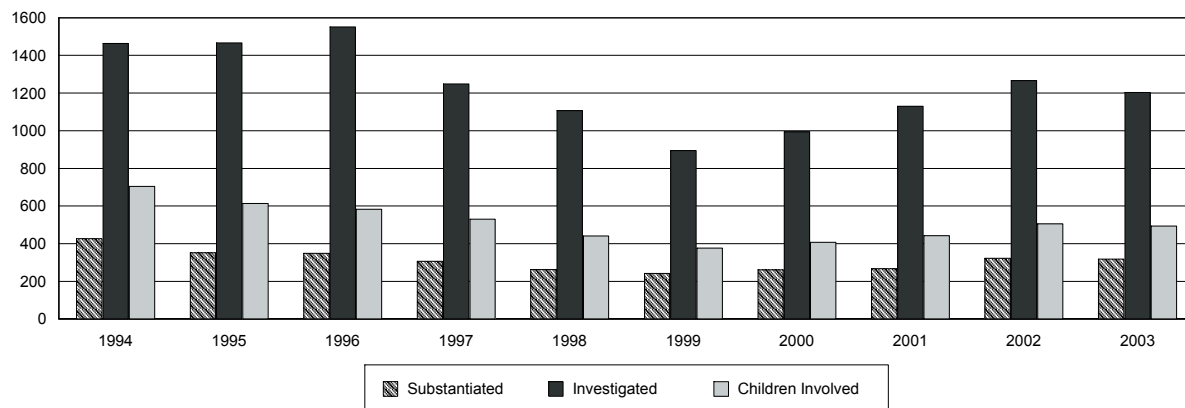
CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	1464	426	705
1995	1467	352	613
1996	1552	349	583
1997	1249	307	531
1998	1106	263	441
1999	895	242	376
2000	994	261	408
2001	1130	267	443
2002	1266	323	505
2003	1203	318	494

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Northern Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has decrease 17.8% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 1203, a decrease of 3.7% since 1997.

Child Abuse or Neglect
Northern Service Area

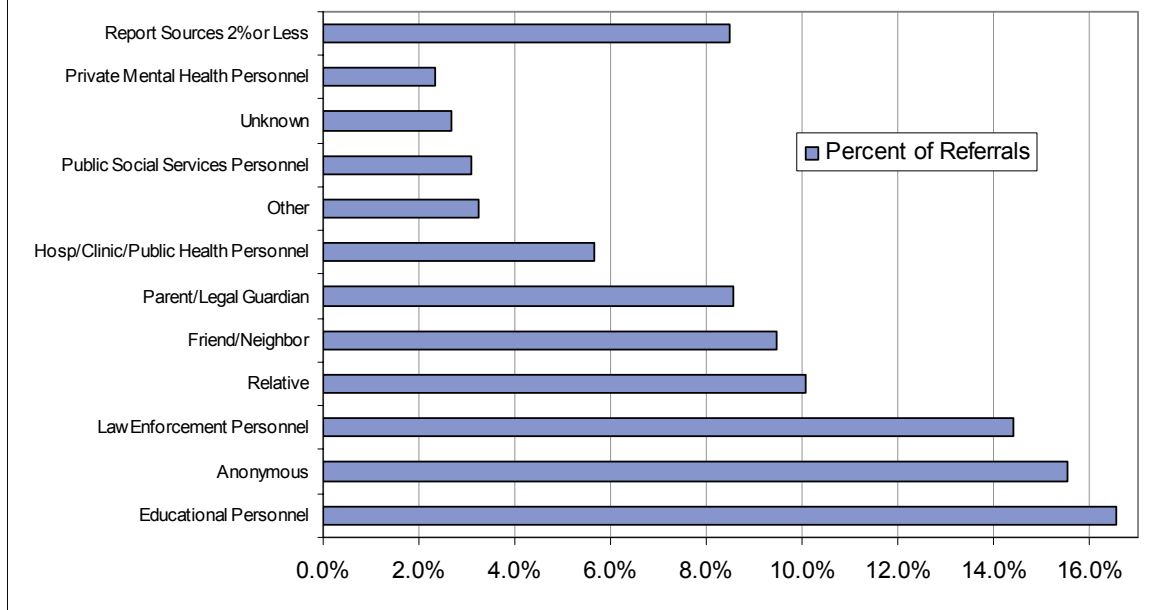


Northern Service Area
Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Northern Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	1	0.1%
Alleged Victim	8	0.7%
Child Care Personnel	24	2.0%
Court/Judge	1	0.1%
Day Care Center Personnel	11	0.9%
Educational Personnel	199	16.5%
Foster Parent	3	0.2%
Friend/Neighbor	114	9.5%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	68	5.7%
Law Enforcement Personnel	173	14.4%
Other	39	3.2%
Parent/Legal Guardian	103	8.6%
Private Attorney	1	0.1%
Private Doctor/Nurse	13	1.1%
Private Mental Health Personnel	28	2.3%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	3	0.2%
Private Social Services Personnel	14	1.2%
Prosecutor	6	0.5%
Public Defender	2	0.2%
Public Mental Health Personnel	11	0.9%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	4	0.3%
Public Social Services Personnel	37	3.1%
Relative	121	10.1%
Unknown	32	2.7%
Anonymous	187	15.5%
Total	1,203	100.0%

Source of Referrals
Northern Service Area - CY2003



Northern Service Area

Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect Northern Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	203	0	411	0	0	113	706
1995	221	0	407	0	0	71	613
1996	180	0	346	0	0	79	583
1997	164	0	341	0	0	78	531
1998	141	0	310	0	0	59	442
1999	119	41	279	21	2	41	351
2000	134	30	286	27	0	22	351
2001	172	61	337	8	4	51	407
2002	120	33	508	20	2	62	505
2003	116	32	445	9	4	67	494

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Northern Service Area there were 673 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 494 children or 1.4 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 458 (68.1%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 148 (22.0%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 67 (10.0%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	47	49	0	96
Emotional Abuse	13	13	0	26
Sexual Abuse	48	10	0	58
Emotional Neglect	3	5	0	7
Physical Neglect	146	157	0	301
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	2	1	0	3
Total	258	235	1	494

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Northern Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	33	44	0	77	15.6%
02	27	22	0	49	9.9%
03	19	11	0	30	6.1%
04	22	19	0	41	8.3%
05	13	15	0	28	5.7%
06	13	14	0	27	5.5%
07	13	11	0	24	4.9%
08	14	6	0	20	4.0%
09	15	17	0	32	6.5%
10	11	12	0	23	4.7%
11	13	18	0	31	6.3%
12	17	13	0	30	6.1%
13	14	10	1	25	5.1%
14	12	6	0	18	3.6%
15	14	5	0	19	3.8%
16	6	10	0	16	3.2%
17	6	5	0	11	2.2%
Over 17	2	0	0	2	0.4%
Total	258	235	1	494	100.0%
Percent	52.2%	47.6%	0.2%	100.0%	

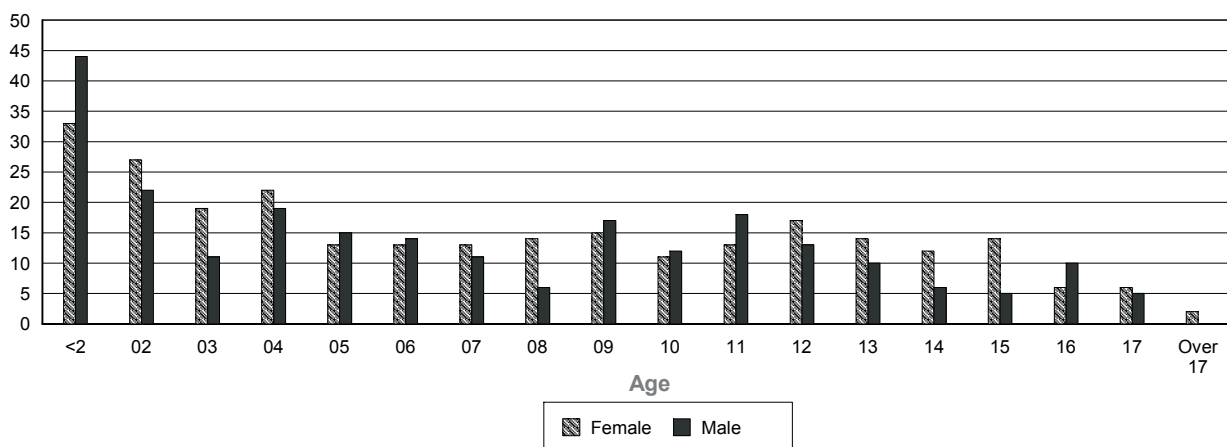
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 1,203 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Northern Service Area in 2003, 318 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 494 children. Of those, 258 were female, 235 were male, and 1 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was 7.3 years.

The median age of the involved children was 6.4 years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Northern Service Area - CY 2003



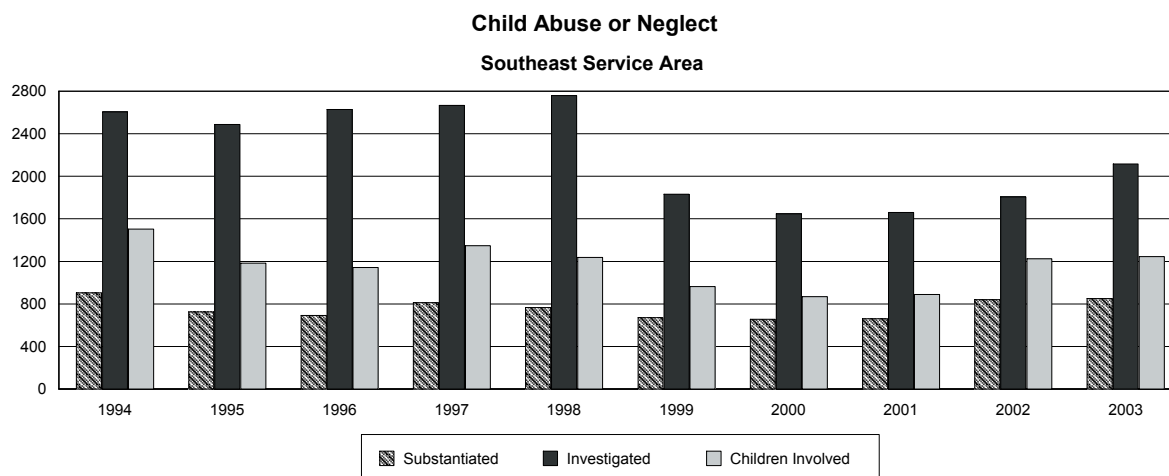
Southeast Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	2606	906	1505
1995	2486	725	1185
1996	2629	693	1144
1997	2665	814	1347
1998	2758	766	1239
1999	1833	671	964
2000	1647	657	869
2001	1659	661	889
2002	1805	842	1225
2003	2117	851	1245

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Southeast Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has decrease 18.8% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 2117, a decrease of 20.6% since 1997.



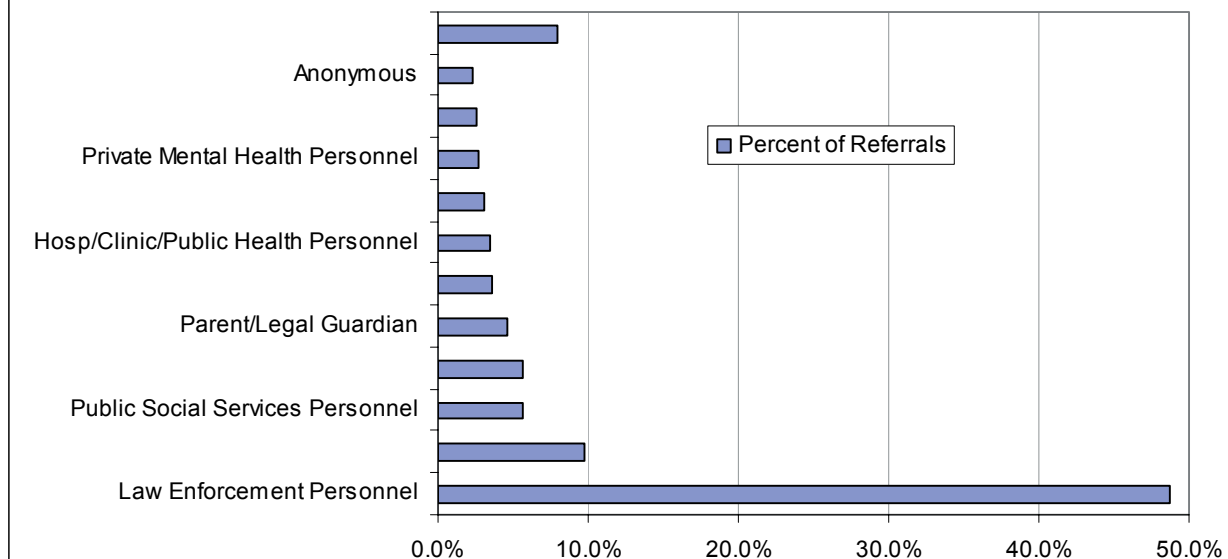
Southeast Service Area

Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Southeast Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	2	0.1%
Alleged Victim	9	0.4%
Child Care Personnel	11	0.5%
Court/Judge	5	0.2%
Day Care Center Personnel	15	0.7%
Educational Personnel	206	9.7%
Foster Parent	10	0.5%
Friend/Neighbor	77	3.6%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	74	3.5%
Law Enforcement Personnel	1,032	48.7%
Other	43	2.0%
Parent/Legal Guardian	97	4.6%
Private Attorney	2	0.1%
Private Doctor/Nurse	27	1.3%
Private Mental Health Personnel	57	2.7%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	10	0.5%
Private Social Services Personnel	30	1.4%
Prosecutor	53	2.5%
Public Mental Health Personnel	2	0.1%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	3	0.1%
Public Social Services Personnel	120	5.7%
Relative	120	5.7%
Unknown	64	3.0%
Anonymous	48	2.3%
Total	2,117	100.0%

Source of Referrals Southeast Service Area - CY 2003



Southeast Service Area
Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect
Southeast Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	413	0	1,008	0	0	160	1,505
1995	376	0	856	0	0	140	1,185
1996	325	0	837	0	0	146	1,144
1997	323	0	1,009	0	0	134	1,347
1998	277	0	924	0	0	112	1,239
1999	231	47	839	316	0	91	1,132
2000	181	29	678	198	0	72	869
2001	226	105	634	73	0	89	884
2002	302	318	1,253	179	0	96	1,225
2003	254	287	1,400	134	0	103	1,245

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Southeast Service Area there were 2,178 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 1,245 children or 1.7 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 1,534 (70.4%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 541 (24.8%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 103 (4.7%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect
By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	90	92	0	183
Emotional Abuse	88	77	0	165
Sexual Abuse	59	18	0	77
Emotional Neglect	45	45	0	90
Physical Neglect	383	345	0	724
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	0	0	0	0
Total	665	577	3	1,245

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Southeast Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	119	110	0	229	18.4%
02	60	55	2	117	9.4%
03	32	43	0	75	6.0%
04	57	44	0	101	8.1%
05	52	50	0	102	8.2%
06	42	41	0	83	6.7%
07	51	25	0	76	6.1%
08	29	33	0	62	5.0%
09	26	31	1	58	4.7%
10	27	28	0	55	4.4%
11	27	24	0	51	4.1%
12	28	30	0	58	4.7%
13	23	25	0	48	3.9%
14	36	18	0	54	4.3%
15	38	17	0	55	4.4%
16	19	13	0	32	2.6%
17	14	4	0	18	1.4%
Over 17	2	2	0	4	0.3%
Total	665	577	3	1,245	100.0%
Percent	53.4%	46.3%	0.2%	100.0%	

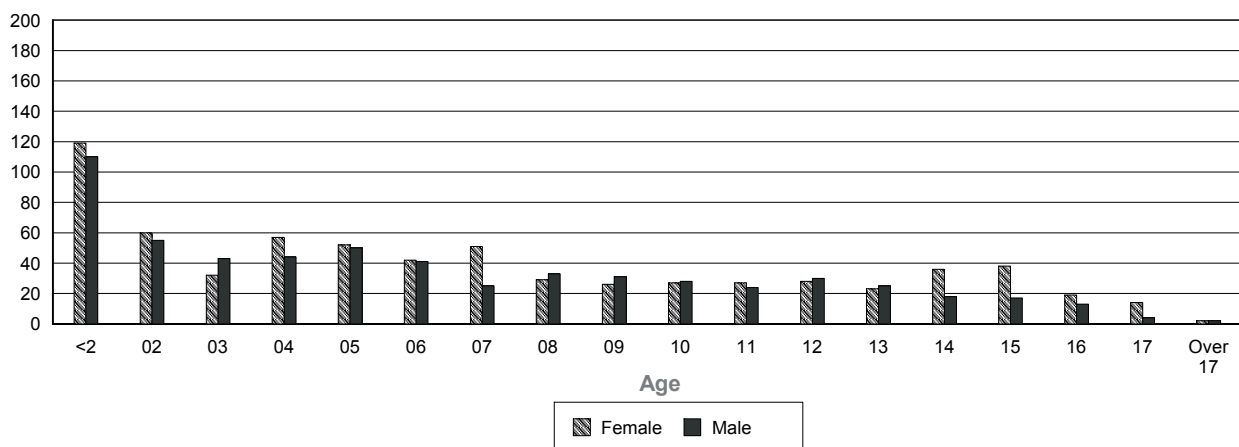
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 2,117 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Southeast Service Area in 2003, 851 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 1,245 children. Of those, 665 were female, 577 were male, and 3 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was **7.1** years.

The median age of the involved children was **6.2** years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Southeast Service Area - CY 2003



Southwest Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

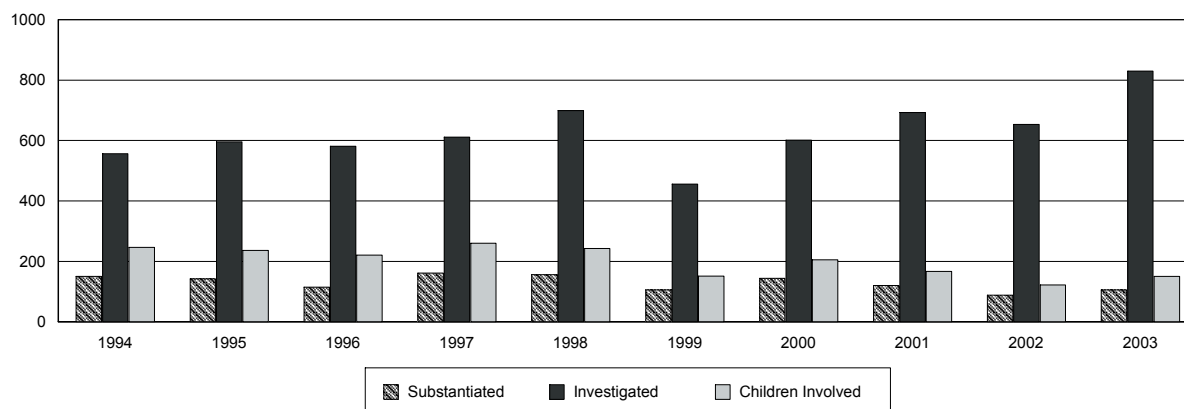
CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	556	150	246
1995	596	142	236
1996	581	115	221
1997	611	161	260
1998	699	156	243
1999	456	106	151
2000	601	144	205
2001	693	120	167
2002	653	88	122
2003	830	106	150

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Southwest Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has increase 49.3% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 830, a increase of 35.8% since 1997.

Child Abuse or Neglect
Southwest Service Area

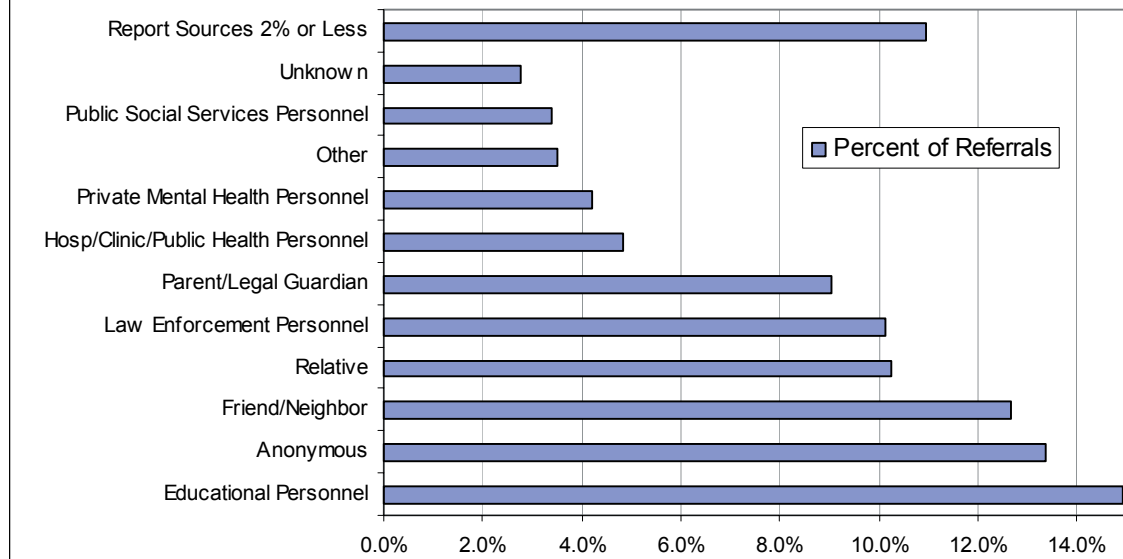


Southwest Service Area
Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Southwest Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	2	0.2%
Alleged Victim	9	1.1%
Child Care Personnel	9	1.1%
Court/Judge	2	0.2%
Day Care Center Personnel	15	1.8%
Educational Personnel	124	14.9%
Foster Parent	3	0.4%
Friend/Neighbor	105	12.7%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	40	4.8%
Law Enforcement Personnel	84	10.1%
Other	29	3.5%
Parent/Legal Guardian	75	9.0%
Private Doctor/Nurse	17	2.0%
Private Mental Health Personnel	35	4.2%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	6	0.7%
Private Social Services Personnel	16	1.9%
Prosecutor	4	0.5%
Public Mental Health Personnel	6	0.7%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	2	0.2%
Public Social Services Personnel	28	3.4%
Relative	85	10.2%
Unknown	23	2.8%
Anonymous	111	13.4%
Total	830	100.0%

Source of Referrals
Southwest Service Area - CY2003



Southwest Service Area
Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect
Southwest Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	93	0	136	0	0	39	246
1995	89	0	141	0	0	57	236
1996	90	0	156	0	0	23	221
1997	103	0	170	0	0	42	260
1998	70	0	162	0	0	42	243
1999	37	8	153	2	10	41	227
2000	69	19	135	20	0	42	207
2001	65	29	144	33	0	49	220
2002	39	13	102	5	0	16	122
2003	41	3	134	4	2	26	150

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Southwest Service Area there were 210 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 150 children or 1.4 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 140 (66.7%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 44 (21.0%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 26 (12.4%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect
By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	21	13	0	34
Emotional Abuse	2	1	0	3
Sexual Abuse	19	5	0	23
Emotional Neglect	2	0	0	2
Physical Neglect	52	34	0	85
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	0	1	0	1
Total	96	54	0	150

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Southwest Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	11	12	0	23	15.3%
02	9	7	0	16	10.7%
03	10	6	0	16	10.7%
04	7	8	0	15	10.0%
05	4	0	0	4	2.7%
06	3	7	0	10	6.7%
07	1	5	0	6	4.0%
08	4	1	0	5	3.3%
09	8	5	0	13	8.7%
10	5	3	0	8	5.3%
11	3	0	0	3	2.0%
12	5	0	0	5	3.3%
13	6	1	0	7	4.7%
14	7	0	0	7	4.7%
15	0	0	0	0	0.0%
16	2	0	0	2	1.3%
17	5	1	0	6	4.0%
Total	96	54	0	150	100.0%
Percent	64.0%	36.0%	0.0%	100.0%	

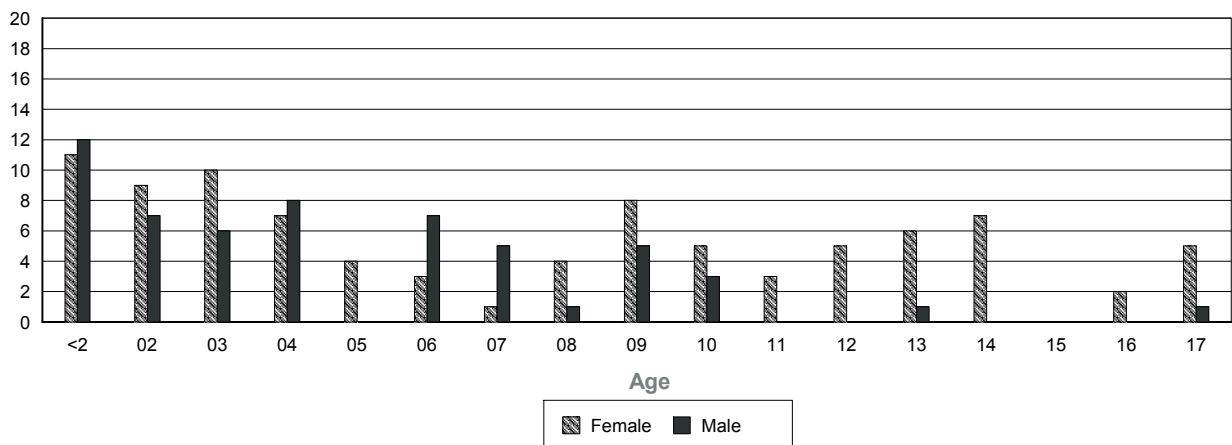
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 830 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Southwest Service Area in 2003, 106 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 150 children. Of those, 96 were female, 54 were male, and 0 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was **6.8** years.

The median age of the involved children was **5.4** years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Southwest Service Area - CY 2003



Western Service Area
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

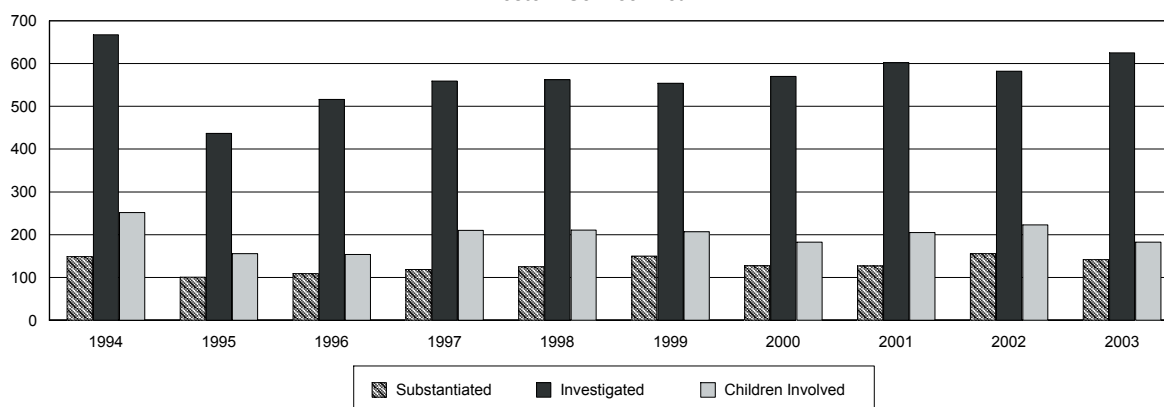
CALENDAR YEARS 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Substantiated	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports
1994	667	149	252
1995	437	101	156
1996	516	109	154
1997	559	119	210
1998	562	125	211
1999	554	150	207
2000	570	128	183
2001	602	127	205
2002	582	156	223
2003	625	142	183

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

The number of child abuse or neglect investigations in the Western Service Area of the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services has decrease 6.3% from calendar year 1994 - 2003. The number of cases investigated in 2003 was 625, a increase of 11.8% since 1997.

Child Abuse or Neglect
Western Service Area



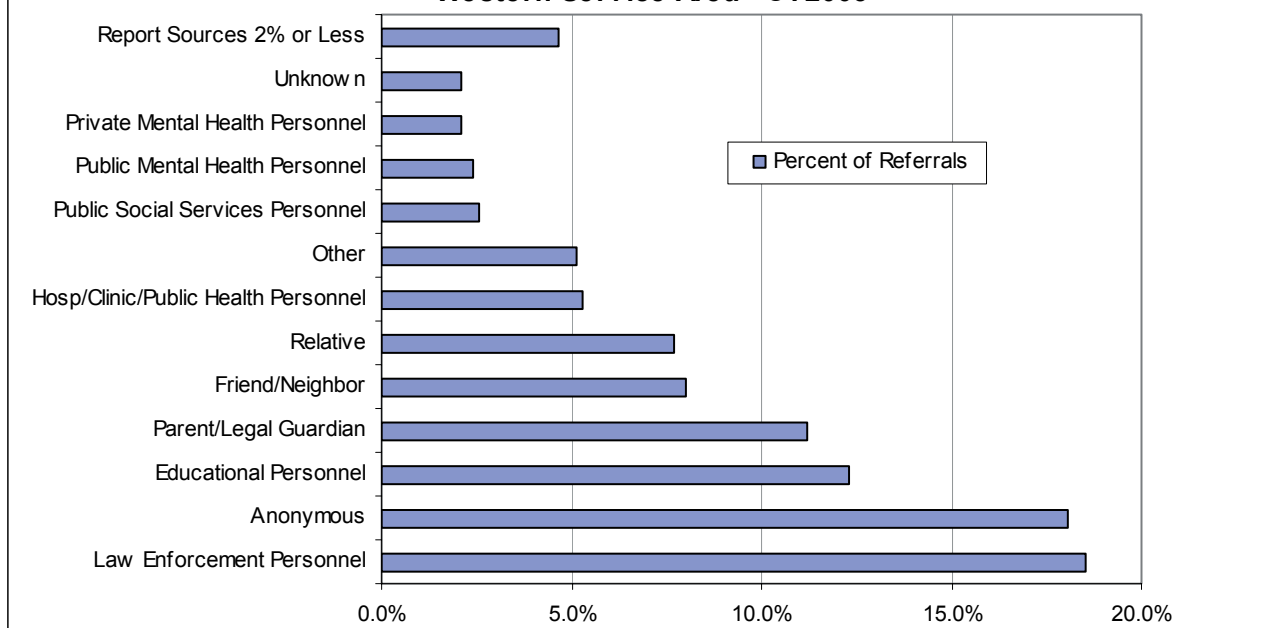
Western Service Area

Source of Abuse or Neglect Reports - CY 2003

Under Nebraska law, citizens are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect to their local law enforcement agencies or the Department. The following table shows the source of reports investigated in the Western Service Area.

Source of Reports	Total Abuse or Neglect Reports Investigated	
	Total	Percent
Alleged Perpetrator	1	0.2%
Alleged Victim	4	0.6%
Child Care Personnel	3	0.5%
Court/Judge	1	0.2%
Day Care Center Personnel	4	0.6%
Educational Personnel	77	12.3%
Foster Parent	2	0.3%
Friend/Neighbor	50	8.0%
Hosp/Clinic/Public Health Personnel	33	5.3%
Law Enforcement Personnel	116	18.6%
Other	32	5.1%
Parent/Legal Guardian	70	11.2%
Private Attorney	1	0.2%
Private Doctor/Nurse	7	1.1%
Private Mental Health Personnel	13	2.1%
Private Residential Facility Personnel	1	0.2%
Private Social Services Personnel	3	0.5%
Prosecutor	1	0.2%
Public Mental Health Personnel	15	2.4%
Public Residential Facility Personnel	1	0.2%
Public Social Services Personnel	16	2.6%
Relative	48	7.7%
Unknown	13	2.1%
Anonymous	113	18.1%
Total	625	100.0%

Source of Referrals Western Service Area - CY2003



Western Service Area
Types of Abuse or Neglect in Substantiated Cases - CY 2003

In a single case, a child (or children) could have been involved with one or more substantiated types of abuse or neglect so the number of substantiated allegations is larger than the total number of involved children in these instances. If a child was involved in more than one case with substantiated instances of abuse or neglect in both cases, then that child would be counted in each case.

Types of Substantiated Abuse or Neglect
Western Service Area - CY 1994 - 2003

Calendar Year	Physical Abuse	Emotional Abuse	Physical Neglect	Emotional Neglect	Med Neg Hndcp Infant	Sexual Abuse	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse
1994	78	0	144	0	0	37	252
1995	55	0	96	0	0	21	156
1996	52	0	85	0	0	31	154
1997	72	0	145	0	0	23	210
1998	66	0	146	0	0	36	211
1999	61	26	148	15	0	50	213
2000	38	8	114	22	0	43	180
2001	40	8	145	20	0	32	180
2002	69	31	186	13	0	46	223
2003	68	5	113	17	0	37	183

NOTE: Values for 1998 are estimates.

In the Western Service Area there were 240 substantiated allegations of abuse or neglect involving 183 children or 1.3 substantiated allegations per child in 2003.

- Physical and emotional neglect together with neglect of medically handicapped infants was the most frequently substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 130 (54.2%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Physical and emotional abuse was the second most frequent substantiated form of child abuse or neglect and accounted for 73 (30.4%) of all substantiated allegations in 2003.
- Sexual abuse, the third major category of child abuse or neglect, had 37 (15.4%) substantiated allegations in 2003.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect
By Sex and Type of Abuse or Neglect Allegations - CY 2003

Type of Allegation	Sex			Total
	Female	Male	Unknown	
Physical Abuse	31	28	0	59
Emotional Abuse	2	2	0	4
Sexual Abuse	30	4	0	34
Emotional Neglect	3	9	0	12
Physical Neglect	35	40	0	73
Med Neg Hndcp Infant	0	0	0	0
Total	101	82	0	183

NOTE: Totals may vary due to rounding.



Western Service Area - CY 2003
Characteristics of Involved Children
Sex and Age of Involved Children

Statewide	Children Involved in Substantiated Reports by Sex and Age				
Age at Report Date	Female	Male	Unknown	Total	Percent
<2	12	12	0	24	13.1%
02	6	5	0	11	6.0%
03	5	6	0	11	6.0%
04	4	6	0	10	5.5%
05	4	9	0	13	7.1%
06	4	6	0	10	5.5%
07	5	5	0	10	5.5%
08	4	3	0	7	3.8%
09	8	7	0	15	8.2%
10	5	3	0	8	4.4%
11	9	3	0	12	6.6%
12	4	5	0	9	4.9%
13	5	3	0	8	4.4%
14	4	2	0	6	3.3%
15	10	1	0	11	6.0%
16	10	3	0	13	7.1%
17	1	2	0	3	1.6%
Over 17	1	1	0	2	1.1%
Total	101	82	0	183	100.0%
Percent	55.2%	44.8%	0.0%	100.0%	

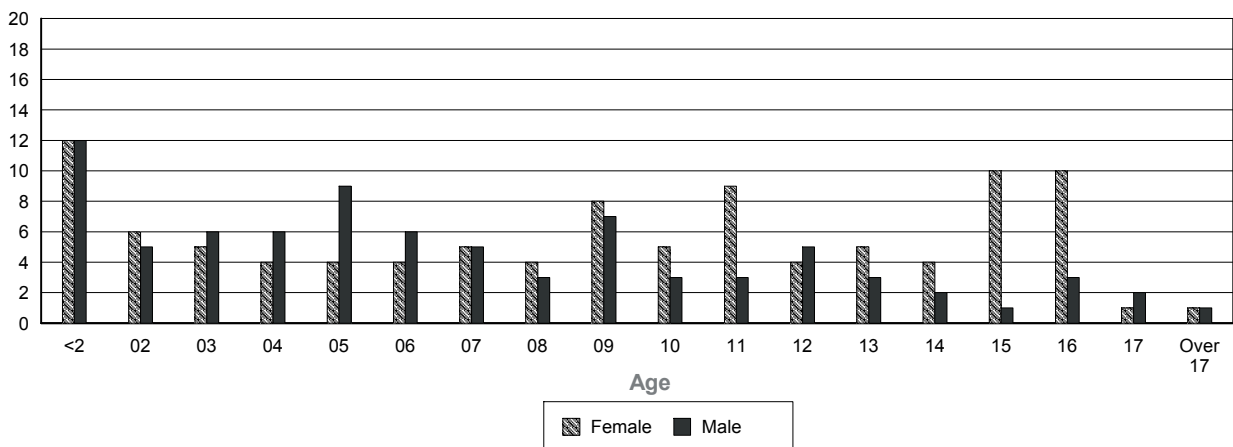
NOTE: Child age is determined as of the report date to the agency. Children involved in more than one report are counted for each age, but unduplicated at the state level.

In the 625 investigations of child abuse or neglect in the Western Service Area in 2003, 142 cases were substantiated. The substantiated investigations involved 183 children. Of those, 101 were female, 82 were male, and 0 were unrecorded.

The average age for the involved children was 8.1 years.

The median age of the involved children was 7.9 years.

Children Involved in Substantiated Reports of Abuse or Neglect by Age & Sex
Western Service Area - CY 2003



NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM



DEPARTMENT OF SERVICES • DEPARTMENT OF REGULATION AND LICENSURE • DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND SUPPORT